BLUES HOLD OUT FOR

Steve Perrin (left) rises high above the Margate defence to head for goal during the first half of Saturday's Cup tie at Loakes Park.



Wanderers on Saturday. SATURDAY'S

one of the many corners

won by Wycombe

Athenian League, Division 1 Iarlow v Erith & Belvedere (3 p.m.). Spartna League: Chalfort St. eter v Berkhamsted Town (2.45 m.). League Cup 1st round: mersham Town v Harefield United. Rothmans Hallenic League, remier Division: Burnham v cester Town.

PLACE IN ROUND ONE

THE width of a goalpost saved Wycombe Wanderers from a trip down to Margate in Saturday's pulsating F.A. Cup Fourth Qualifying Round encounter at Loakes Park.

Loakes Park.

And had Norman Fusco's 30 yard effort gone an inch to the right instead of thumping the upright, I wouldn't have fancied Wycombe Wanderers' chances in the replay at Hartsdown.

Margate, by far the most physical side the Blues have met this season, would have been a stiff proposition on their own stiff proposition on their own But the question of a replay

But the question of a replay should never have entered the minds of the 3,000 strong crowd, for the match ought to have been decided after 45 minutes. Only once this season (against Hendon), have we seen wanderers so dominant in the first half of a game. They out-played their Southern League played their Southern League every time Wycombe were every time Wycombe were in possession. Chance after chance was created as the visitors

possession. Chance after chance was created as the visitors struggled to get into the game. Their only answer to the pressure was to foul, Time after time referse D. Smith blev for free kicks which must have numbered about 20-30 in the first half. Offender in chief was centre half Steve Breach. From the first aerial duel with Keith Searle, Breach was up against it and after a series of warnings he was eventually booked. Still Breach fouled, upsetting and pressurising his own teammates, pressurising his own teammates, until eventually he had to be replaced by substitute Ray Summers in the 38th minute. Had Breach not been substituted, there was no doubt in my mind that he would have been sent off for continual

fouling.

It must be a long time since a player has been taken off to prevent his own dismissal and it demonstrated just how severe the pressure so on Margate. Not that Breach was the only culprit. Full backs Dennis Butler and Alan Butterfield also Butler and Alan Butterfield also dished out some stick to the Wycombe front runners, Butler eventually joining Breach in the book. If this was an example of Southern League soccer, Wanderers are far better off in the Bothman League.

Wanderers are far better off in the Rothmans Isthmian League. Breach's amazing behaviour could not overshadow a superb first half display by Wanderers, however. They tore their op-ponents to pieces and their per-formace was reminscent of their

formace was reminscent of their 5-0 victory over Kettering a few years back.

The only reason Margate were allowed to get back into the game was due to a goal gifted to them by the home defence in the last few minutes of the first half. A series of errors inside the box saw them pull back to 1-2 and after the ineval they looked a different pull back to 1-2 and after the in-terval they looked a different outfit. That goal meant that Wanderers had to endure a hec-tic second half in which there were a number of scares, purely because they did not ram home their clear superjicities it he rare. their clear superiority in the ear-

their clear superiority in the call y stages.

At first though, it seemed Wycombe would have this game sewn up by the break. Wearing a new light blue strip, they piled into Margate with Searle twice

centre back, making way for Summers in midfield. The move worked better than Margate could ever have imagined. With could ever have imagined. With Breach gone, the visitors' defence found themselves more time and in the 41st minute, they snapped up a free gift to put themselves back in with a chance.

Until this incident, home 'keeper John Maskell had been

minute when Bowtell held onto a rising drive from Kennedy. Four minutes later Alan Phillips broke through from midfield and laid a superb through ball to Horseman's feet but after draw-ing a defender and slipping the ball to Perrin, the latter miscued his shot hopelessly wide.

his shot hopeleasly wide.

As Margate began to tire, however, Wanderers at last hauled themselves back into the game again, foreing four corners inside two minutes. From one of wasted the beschaft, or sense wasted the beschaft, or sense wasted the beschaft of the wasted the beschaft of the half. Searle, receiving the ball at the near post, filcked the ball over the goalkeeper to Horseman, 10 yards out. Although two defenders were on the line, "Bodger" would normally have put this chance away with ease. This time he sliced the ball nearer the corner flag than the goal.

Kennedy blasted Perrin's pass over the top after 74 minutes, two minutes later Bowtell saved a full blooded Horseman effort and then Kennedy teased two defenders before shooting just past the post. In between the wycombe's efforts, Brown drove wide at the other end when Wycombe's back four were cautely too source. were caught too square.

than the goal.

Amidst all this excitement Butler was booked for scything down Horseman in the 77th minute. Then Perrin latched on Butler's weak back-pass and hit the side netting but the closest effort of the half came from Margate

Breaking out of defence, Fuseo was allowed to run straight at the defence for 20 yards or more. He even had time to look up and place his shot which flew over Maskell's despairing dive but thumped against the upright and was hastily cleared.

That was with five minutes left and there were some mightily relieved faces in the Wycombe crowd when Mr. Smith finally brought this excellent Cup tie to

Half time: 2-1. Goalscorers; Wycombe: Kennedy (10), Horseman (32). Margate: Gilbert (41),

Official total attendance: 2,876

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

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bringing 'keeper Steve Bowtell into action. After eight minutes Bowtell plucked a fierce cross-shot from Perrin out of the air and as Breach and Co. Degan to lose their heads, Wanderers took the lead with an all-important early goal.

The move that brought the breakthrough was one of the breakthrough was one of the Horseman, Perrin, Seale and Howard Kennedy all exchanged

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Margate 1

passes before Searle finally slipped the ball inside to

passes before Searle finally slipped the ball inside to Wycombe's top goalscorer, who coolly beat Bowtell from eight yards. Kennedy's placing the shot was precise and with this goal bringing his tally to 12 this shot was precise and with this goal bringing his tally to 12 this shot was precise and with this goal bringing his tally to 12 this goal bringing his tall was the properties of the work of the wor

role in the visitors' second half revival.

A couple of long range efforts from Reardon, who managed to overcome his mid-week bout of 'flu, kept the Margate defence on the rack and only Bowtell's firm catching of the ball kept the coastal club from going further behind. After Breach was booked in the 29th minute, Perrin forced another diving awe from the 'keoper and then Margate's defence cracked and the company of the com

Still Wanderers stormed forward and two minutes after that second goal came the game's matter that second goal came the game's matter turning point. Once again Holliede pace took that the game's matter than Still Wanderers stormed

Just after Kennedy's 30 yard free kick had been tipped away for the umpteenth corner, the Margate management took the sensible decision to replace

Report by STUART EARP virtually redundant and it was probably his inactivity that brought the Margate goal. John should not shoulder all the blame, however, for the defence had two or three opportunities to cicar from their penalty area before Maskell dived to collect the ball, failed to hold onto it and gave Carl Gilbert the

and gave Carl Gilbert the chance to slot home.

The effect of the score was obvious. Wycombe sagged significantly and were glad to hold out for the remaining four minutes of the half. Margate now had fresh hope.

The change in the pattern of the second half was predictable. Margate came out with a new cause. Gone was the first half bickering and swearing. Now the players were urging each other on, praising each other's efforts and looking much more like a side near the top of the Southern League. Wycombe, with the wind taken right out of the control of the with the wind taken right out of their sails, suddenly became shaky at the back, exposed in midfield and disorganised upfront. It was obviously going to be Margate's half. The ques-tion was, could Wanderers hold out?

out?
Forty-seven minutes later we had the answer but during those minutes there were many anxious moments for both sides. At first Margate threw all they had at the home side and held their pip for almost half an hour. Then Wycombe started to believe in themselves against the match in the driving sea.

Margate, sensing they had a

ed the match in the driving seat. Margate, sensing they had a match-saver in winger Walker, played to their rumber 11 from the second half whistle. Hugging the touchline, Walker was again given all the time in the world to bang over left foot crosses which had the home defence in a good deal of trouble. It was fortunate cost of the season of the seas Mead but lacked penetration near goal while the bearded Barry Brown seldom threatened

Barry Brown seldom threatened and wasted his one and only chance in the game.

As Margate came forward they began to discover massive gaps in midfield. With Hollfield marking Eddie Clayton the ex-Spurs first teamer. Kennedy and Passedor sould not copy with Spurs first teamer, Kennedy and Reardon could not cope with the extra enthusiasm Margate generated and Wycombe themselves began to commit fouls. From one free kick Maskell saved well from Fusco and then Sawyer's curling drive from a corner forced the keeper to gather at the second attempt to gather at the second attempt dominance there were a few Wycombe raids which almost brought goals, like in the 60th